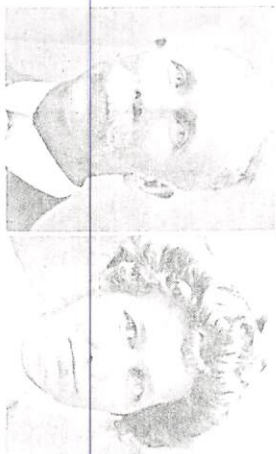


HENRY McLEAN AIRD AND
HIS WIFE VIOLET RYAN AIRD



Henry McLean Aird, born Sept. 18, 1860.
Married Jessie Quinn June 25, 1891. She
died April 10, 1892 in childbirth.



Henry Aird
Home

James Stacey Murdock

Elden & Beth Murdock Ritchie

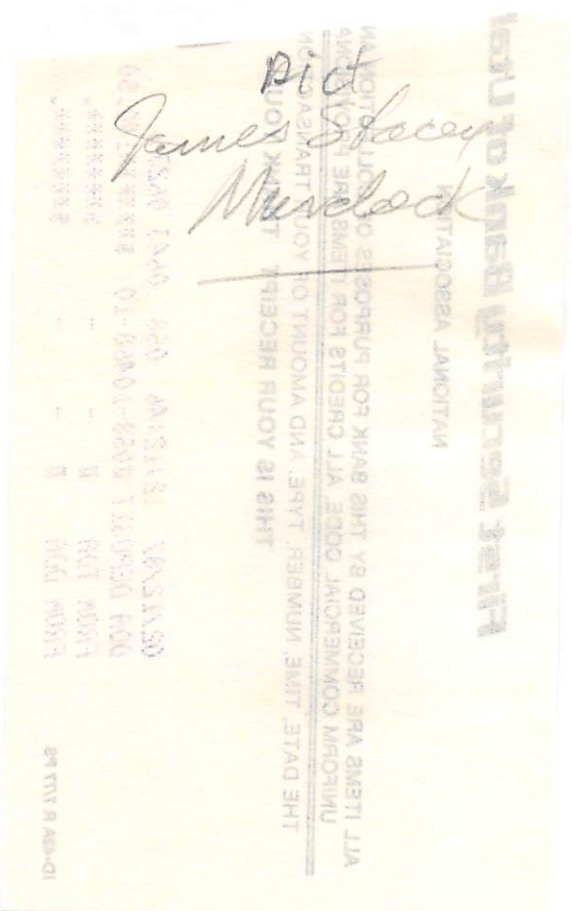
Beth
Ritchie
Duck
House



HENRY M. AIRD

First principal of graded schools in Wasatch County—1892

By 1892 the theory of graded schools was being implemented in the valley and Henry Aird became the first principal of a graded school in the county. The Heber Central School, as it was known, came about through



HENRY McLEAN AIRD AND HIS WIFE VIOLET RYAN AIRD



Henry McLean Aird, born Sept. 18, 1850.
Married Jessie Quinn June 25, 1891. She
died April 10, 1892 in childbirth.

263

Married Violet Ryan July 15, 1893.

Henry died April 20, 1928.

Mrs. Aird is alive and well.

Henry's parents were William and Elizabeth McLean Aird, who emigrated to Utah from Scotland in 1854. In 1861 when Henry was one year old the family moved to Heber City, where he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the available schools in Heber and the University of Deseret in Salt Lake City, which later became the University of Utah. He was graduated from this institution when he was 24 years of age.

As was common in those days, the Aird family was poor in worldly goods and his education was obtained through sacrifice and hard work, as is evidenced by the fact that he traveled by foot many times to and from Salt Lake City, for the purpose of attending the university, wearing clothes tailored by his father from cloth which had been home-spun by his mother. Shoes for the family were also made by the father, who was a cobbler as well as a tailor.

Beginning with the school term following Henry's graduation in 1884, he began his teaching career in the Sleepy Hollow school and the next 20 years of his life were devoted to teaching in the schools of Heber City.

In 1904, the Airds moved from Heber City to Provo Bench, where they acquired a fruit farm. However, Henry continued in his chosen profession of teaching until his retirement in 1919. In addition to his devotion to teaching, he loved to write verse, much of which were put to music. His outstanding achievement in this field was a song which he composed in 1906 entitled "Hail To Thee Utah." For his creation of this song, he was awarded a prize of \$500 by a Salt Lake newspaper, as sponsor of a contest.

Upon Henry's retirement from teaching in 1919, the family moved to Provo, Utah, and a few years later they moved to Lynwood, California, where they resided until Henry's death on April 20, 1928. His remains were returned to Heber City to find a final resting place.

Violet Ryan Aird was born on July 5, 1870, in Charleston, Wasatch County, Utah, to William M. and Floweretta Fraughton Ryan. She was educated in the Heber City schools and the Brigham Young Academy at Provo, which later became the Brigham Young University. Her teaching career be-

263

gan in the Buysville school when she was 17 where she taught for one year. She then taught for two years in Charleston and one year in Center Creek. During these years of teaching, she was able to accumulate enough money to attend the Brigham Young Academy, where she completed her education. After graduation from the BYU she taught for one year in Heber City, where Henry was principal.

During a period of several years immediately following their move to Provo Bench in 1904, Violet continued to teach. This time in the schools of Provo Bench and Vineyard, where she served principally as a substitute teacher. This permitted her to spend a portion of her time at home fulfilling the obligations and demands common to the rearing of a family.

Soon after Henry's death, Violet returned from California to make her home in Provo where she has since resided.

Children: Iva Violet, Lyall Chloe, Wallace Linden, Virginia Floweretta, Walter Henry, Dorothy Jean.